

Minutes of Tree & Forest Committee Meeting

Wed Feb 19, 2020 5:30pm PM at Town Library

1. Call to order. Attended by Jim Neureuther, George Kellar, Eammon Coughlin
2. Minutes from Dec 4, 2019 meeting were approved
3. Treasurer's Report
 - a. FY20 Town Operating Budget Account 100.168.5700.020 balance = \$1200
 - b. \$100 donation from Lilian Fraker deposited 12/13/2019 to Donations account 180.168.5700.020. New balance \$3,785.48. Thank you note sent.
4. Tree Status/Planting/Maintenance
 - a. Update to LES Tree Planting Plan eliminates trees planted in the parking lot medians due to lack of room for mowers to maneuver. Plan was approved at Jan 13 Selectman meeting with understanding that School district superintendent and LES principal also approve. Also notify DPW head prior to planting any trees. The Plan was forwarded Feb8 via email to both Kimberly Grady (Superintendent) and Nolan Pratt (LES acting Principal). Kim asked for a get together to discuss concerns about tree locations. Jim responded Feb10. No reply to date.
 - b. Email sent on Feb 8 to Ron Yaple, Race Mountain Tree Services, requesting estimate of King Elmer DED inoculation and confirmation that the work will be done in June after full foliage and invoiced prior to 6/30/2020 to meet challenge grant and funding utilization needs. Phone call confirmed that work and invoice will be done. They will email an estimate. None received yet.
 - c. Pruning. Trees at LES and Laston and Memorial Park should be inspected and minor pruning done while dormant. Probably still be OK for minor pruning until late April however we could try at some time sooner than that.
5. Year End Newsletter
 - a. Our Tree Committee Tree-eNews newsletter was submitted to Town Secretary by Feb 19 so it can be added to the Feb 24 Selectman meeting for approval. Diane will then provide it to the person who prepares the monthly Lanesborough online news. We ask that it have a prominent notification in the issue with a click to open feature so people can readily view it.
 - b. Jim will attend Feb 24 Selectman meeting in case there are any questions.
 - c. Arbor Day 2020 will be topic of our next Tree e-News planned for June.
6. Annual Report for Town Meeting

- a. A Tree and Forest Committee Report for the Annual Town Meeting booklet was approved. This report helps to justify our budget and demonstrates to town people that this support is appreciated.

7. Challenge Grant Status for King Elmer DED inoculation

- a. Jim obtained clarification on some of the Grant forms from Julie Coop, Ma DCR Grant coordinator. The forms with notes on how to fill out were provided to Town Manager, Kelli Robbins on Jan 27 and completed by the treasurer. Jim mailed the package to Julie Coop on Feb 14.

8. Tree City Re-Certification

- a. Jim created an online account for performing Tree City Re-certification with the Arbor Day Foundation for our 15th consecutive year using an online tool. This is the first year using the online tool which required items and attachments that we had not previously submitted. The process should be easier in future years since we will have the benefit of previous year data. The process is straightforward but a delay occurred with how to prove that Lanesborough adheres to MGL Chapter 87 Shade Tree regulations. Also the application expects attachment of our local Tree Ordinance. A Lanesborough tree ordinance was on the town meeting warrant in 2007 and was tabled and never brought back. The Town Secretary informed Jim that the issue was concern that a tree ordinance might conflict with MGL Chap 87. Also our current Town Manager does not see value in adopting ordinances that replicate MGLs which are already binding on us. Therefore we have no Tree Ordinance. Jim asked for guidance from Mollie Freilicher of Mass DCR who replied that it is acceptable to have a letter that states we accept MGL Chapter 87 as our tree ordinance. As soon as Jim gets info about Tree Warden Bill Girard certifications, we will submit our 2019 Tree City re-certification.

9. Arbor Day 2020 Plans

- a. Anna Mello, 3rd grade teacher, was contacted and Friday May 15 was set as the date for the Arbor Day observance with the 3rd grade class. We will follow similar plan as previous years including a hike on the Bradley Trail. This year there are 34 in the LES 3rd grade class and Ms. Mello will invite 6 from the Hancock school 3rd grade. If possible we can try to plant a tree at the LES arboretum.

10. Committee Membership

- a. The Tree e-News and town meeting report note that we need new members.

11. Other Business

- a. Volunteer time was updated. 33 hrs. have been expended YTD from Jan 1
- b. Next Meeting planned for May prior to the Arbor Day observance